

More Attractions:

The Herbert Hoover National Historic Site and Presidential Library-Museum.

The showpiece of this 186-acre complex in West Branch is the birthplace cottage of Herbert Hoover, America's 31st President. Nearby is the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum. The site also includes a restored Friends Meetinghouse, an early West Branch one-room school, a reproduction of Jesse Hoover's blacksmith shop and the hilltop gravesites of Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover. For more information call (319) 643-2541 or (319) 643-5301.

Scattergood Friends School

Founded in 1890, this Quaker boarding school just east of West Branch offers tours of the campus, including the 1860 Hickory Grove Meetinghouse, still being used for traditional silent Quaker Meetings.

The Rochester Cemetery

Located just southeast of the Cedar River bridge, the Rochester Cemetery is one of only a few surviving natural prairies in Iowa. Throughout the spring and summer visitors can enjoy a dazzling display of wildflowers.

Townsend Wildlife Area

Located between Tipton and Lowden on County Road X-14, this 118-acre timber is a great spot for nature walks and birdwatching. You will have to blaze your own trails, as the only hint of development in this wildlife refuge is a small parking lot.

CEDAR COUNTY TOWNS

Springdale

Settled by Quakers around 1850, site of underground railroad activity, and focal training point for John Brown before his Harper Ferry raid.

Rochester

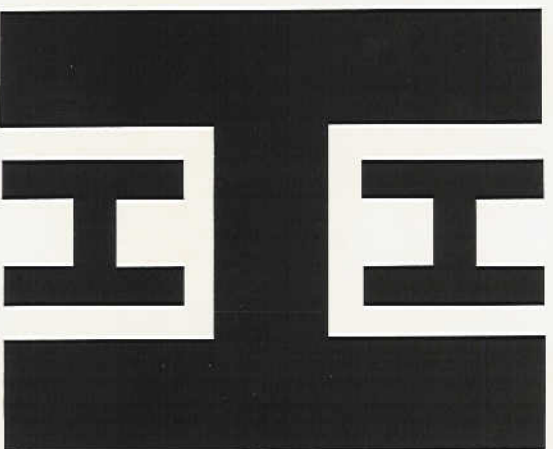
Along the Cedar River, known as the "City of Sand." One of the earliest towns laid out in the county and the first county seat from 1836 -1840.

Tipton

Located in the center of Cedar county and county seat since 1841.

Lowden

Supply station stopping point in 1867 for the Chicago, Iowa, & Nebraska Railroad, connecting Clinton and Cedar Rapids.



THE TRIPLE-H LOGO

By keeping an eye open for the triple-H logo used to mark the meandering route of the Herbert Hoover Highway, you'll be sure not to get lost. The logo is a reproduction of the original symbol used in first marking the Hoover Highway in 1923. It appears on highway signs, historical markers and, just as it did in 1923, 48 utility poles along the route.

TRAVEL THE HISTORIC HERBERT HOOVER HIGHWAY

The Herbert Hoover Highway was designated August 27, 1923 to honor Cedar county's native son for his famine relief efforts during World War I.

On August 16, 1923, at Hoover's birthplace in West Branch, Iowa, the fledgling Good Roads Association, under leadership of Hoover's cousin George C. Hoover, selected a 42-mile route that would be touted as a shortcut between Iowa City and Lowden. Eleven days later the Iowa State Highway Commission approved registration of the marked trail.

Signs along the route were in place by October, 1923 and apparently were paid for by the towns through which it passed. At the time, the state spent \$6,000 per mile bringing the route up to grade as a primary road.

Later, as a Republican presidential nominee in 1928, Herbert Hoover was shown the highway bearing his name. It was then being called a Des Moines and Chicago shortcut between U.S. Highway 32 and the Lincoln Highway at Lowden.

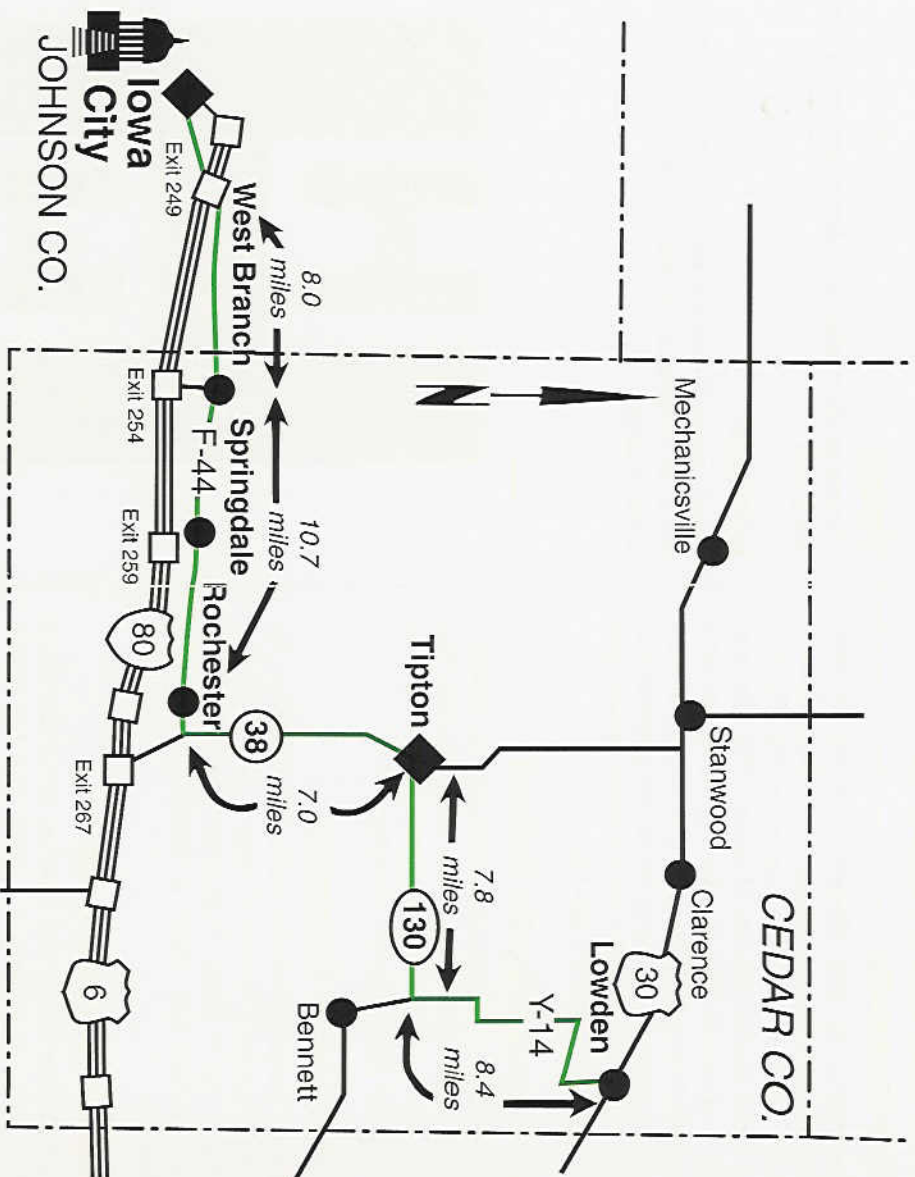
Iowa City was the western terminus of the Hoover Highway where the road ended at the entrance to the old Iowa Capitol building. From Iowa City it extended eastward on Primary Road 74 through the Cedar county towns of West Branch, Springdale, Rochester, Tipton and east to a site 2 miles north of Bennett where it angled north to Lowden. At that point it joined with the paved Lincoln Highway which had reached Lowden and stopped. Using this route, travelers from Iowa City were 13 miles closer to Chicago than by the former route via Davenport.

Between Iowa City and Lowden, 48 utility poles were painted with the official Herbert Hoover Highway symbol comprised of the letter "H" in three positions. A 30-inch white band contained a large black letter "H". A black small letter "H" was inside both legs of the large letter.

Besides the pole markings, there were 12 white sign boards two feet square outlined in black. Each board contained either Lowden or Iowa City and the mileage to that point. In a cosmopolitan flair, the final sign at each terminus also indicated the distances to Chicago or to Des Moines.

The route was revived and re-marked in 1987 as a tourist trail. Today 18 miles of the route run parallel to I-80 between Exit 267 to Tipton and Exit 249 to Iowa City.

The Herbert Hoover Highway



Attractions along the Herbert Hoover Highway

Old Capitol

Located in Iowa City at the western terminus of the Herbert Hoover Highway is Old Capitol, Iowa's first permanent territorial and state capitol. Constructed of native limestone in the 1840s the building was turned over to the State University of Iowa in 1857, when the state capitol was relocated west to Des Moines, and is now a museum of Iowa history. It was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1976. For more information call (319) 335-0548.

The West Branch Commercial District

Sixteen commercial buildings along West Main and North Downey streets in West Branch illustrate the transformation midwestern farming communities like West Branch underwent during the "Golden Era of American Agriculture" between 1870 and 1916. For more information call (319) 643-2111.